



In the Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Canceled).
14. (Canceled).
15. (Canceled).
16. (Canceled).
17. (Canceled).
18. (Canceled).
19. (Canceled).
20. (Canceled).
21. (Canceled).
22. (Canceled).
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24. (Canceled).
25. (Canceled).
26. (Canceled).
27. (Canceled).
28. (Canceled).
29. (Canceled).
30. (Canceled).
31. (Canceled).
32. (Canceled).
33. (Canceled).
34. (Canceled).
35. (Canceled).
36. (Canceled).
37. (Canceled).
38. (Canceled).
39. (Canceled).
40. (Canceled).

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41. (Allowed) A casing perforator apparatus for perforating casing disposed in a wellbore, the apparatus comprising:
- a perforator body; and
 - at least three toothed wheels movably mounted to the perforator body, each wheel having a different axis of rotation.

42. (Canceled).
43. (Allowed) An apparatus as in 41 wherein at least one of the toothed wheels has extendable teeth.
44. (Allowed) An apparatus as in 41 further comprising means for moving the toothed wheels into contact with the casing.
45. (Allowed) An apparatus as in 41 wherein the casing is cemented in the wellbore, having a cement sheath around the casing.
46. (Allowed) An apparatus as in 45 wherein the plurality of toothed wheels have teeth capable of perforating at least some distance into the cement sheath.
47. (Canceled).
48. (Canceled).
49. (Canceled).
50. (Canceled).
51. (Canceled).
52. (Canceled).
53. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as in 51~~ A casing perforator apparatus for perforating casing disposed in a wellbore, the apparatus comprising:
a perforator body; and
a plurality of perforator needles movable between a retracted position and an extended position, wherein the needles are shearable from the perforator body;
an actuating means for moving the needles from the retracted position to the extended position; and
a propellant subassembly having a propellant designed to create a high-energy fluid stream capable of substantially exiting the casing through perforations therein.
54. (Canceled).
55. (Original) An apparatus as in 53 wherein the needles are soluble in acid solution.
56. (Canceled).
57. (Canceled).

- 57. (Canceled).
- 58. (Canceled).
- 59. (Canceled).
- 60. (Canceled).

61. (Amended) A method [as in 59 further comprising the steps of] of perforating a casing in a wellbore, the method comprising:

positioning a perforator in the casing, the perforator having a plurality of perforator needles movable mounted thereon, the needles in a retracted position; and
moving the needles to an extended position and perforating the casing with the needles;

disconnecting the needles from the perforator;

creating a high-energy fluid stream which substantially vacates the casing; and
fracturing at least the cement sheath.

~~A method as in 59 further comprising the steps of~~

62. (Original) A method as in 61 further comprising dissolving the needles.

- 63. (Canceled).
- 64. (Canceled).
- 65. (Withdrawn)
- 66. (Withdrawn)
- 67. (Withdrawn)
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Amdt. dated: March 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: September 10, 2003

91. (Withdrawn)
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